

1 honest assessments between such subdivisions as may be
2 provided by law.

3 As you all know or certainly the great majority
4 of you know, the state distributes grants in aid to Bal-
5 timore City, and the 23 counties, in some instances on
6 the basis of ^{land} ~~their~~ value.

7 Put it differently. The attempt has been made
8 and has been made in this state since 1924 to ~~gauge~~
9 certain grants in aid on an ability to pay basis. This
10 means that the richer counties in effect seek to help the
11 poor counties.

12 The first step in this particular type of pro-
13 posal was in the educational field where the equaliza-
14 tion fund was worked so that ~~counties with lower~~ poor coun-
15 ties would receive greater amounts of money from the state
16 than richer counties, in order to insure the fact that
17 every child in the state would at least have a modicum
18 of equal educational opportunities.

19 However, because of the unequal assessment
20 procedures this method, laudable as it was, proved to be
21 a raid on the state treasury.